REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 21, 2007, no claims are amended, no claims are cancelled, and no claims are added.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemitsu (U.S. Patent 5,617,384).

Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part, "correction control means for correcting an abnormal portion of the management information corresponding to the current recording medium held in the management information holding means **with reference to the management information in the initial state** in response to the correction instruction information from the correction manipulation means."

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed Cir. 1987). At a minimum, the cited prior art does not disclose (expressly or inherently) the above recited limitation.

The Office Action, at pages 2 and 3, asserts that Yonemitsu, at column 9, lines 57-61, discloses a correction control means for correcting an abnormal portion of the management information corresponding to the current recording medium held in the management information holding means with reference to the management information in the initial state in response to the correction instruction information from the correction manipulation means.

However, Yonemitsu, at column 9, lines 57-61, merely states,

> In addition, **TOC information that is recovered from disk** 100, after being error corrected by error correcting circuit 216 and error detected by EDC detector 222, is coupled to a TOC memory 223 for use in controlling a data playback operation and for permitting rapid access to user data.

Additionally, Yonemitsu, at column 9, lines 9-56, merely states:

> Ring buffer 217 is coupled to an **error correcting circuit 216 which functions to correct errors that may be present in the data stored in the ring buffer.** For example, when data is recorded in the long distance code formed of, for example, C1 code words, each comprised of 136 symbols including 116 symbols representing data (i.e. C2 data), **12 symbols representing C2 parity and 8 symbols representing C1 parity,** error correcting circuit 216 first uses the C1 parity symbols to correct errors that may be present in the C1 word. A corrected C1 word is rewritten into ring buffer 217; and then the error correcting circuit uses the C2 parity symbols for further error correction. Those data symbols which are subjected to further error correction are rewritten into the ring buffer as corrected data. Reference is made to aforementioned U.S. Re. Pat. No. 31,666 for an example of error correction.
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> In the event that an error in the sector header is sensed, error correcting circuit 216 uses the C1 parity symbols to correct the sector header, and the corrected sector header is rewritten into a sector header detector 221. Advantageously, the C2 parity symbols need not be used for sector header error correction.
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> As mentioned above, the input data symbols supplied four error correction encoding exhibit a given sequence, but the error correction encoded symbols are rearranged in a different sequence for recording. In one arrangement, the odd and even symbols are separated and the odd symbols of a C1 code word are recorded in an odd group while the even symbols of that C1 code word are recorded in an even group. Alternatively, odd and even symbols of different C1 code words may be grouped together for recording. Still further, other sequential arrangements may be used to record the data. During playback, error correcting circuit 216 and ring buffer 217 cooperate to return the recovered data symbols to their original, given sequence. That is, the data symbols may be thought of as being recorded in a disarranged order and the combination of the error correcting circuit and ring buffer operate to rearrange the order of the symbols in a C1 code word to its properly arranged sequence.
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> Error corrected data stored in ring buffer 217 is coupled to error detecting circuit 222 which uses the EDC bits added to the recorded data by EDC adder 127 (FIG. 1) to detect an uncorrectable error. In the event that data cannot be corrected, EDC detector 222 provides a suitable indication, such as an error flag in a particular uncorrectable byte or an error flag in an uncorrectable C1 code word, and the error corrected data, either with or without such error flags, as the case may be, is coupled to output terminal 224.

Thus, Yonemitsu merely uses error correcting circuit 216 to correct errors in data (such as TOC) by using C2 parity and C1 parity information. The parity information is present when the data is recorded in long distance code. In other words, Yonemitsu corrects errors using C2

and C1 parity information (which is also subject to recording and reading errors), and not with reference to any information in the initial state.

Thus, Yonemitsu does **not** correct "an abnormal portion of the management information corresponding to the current recording medium held in the management information holding means **with reference to the management information in the initial state** in response to the correction instruction information from the correction manipulation means," as recited by claim 1.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.,* 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as independent claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also patentable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-8 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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